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 R 221357Z FEB 84
 FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5185
 INFO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 8650
 RUQMKA/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 6712
 RUQMDI/AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU 5095
 RUEHMK/AMCONSUL MOMBASA 0986
 BT
 UNCLAS NAIROBI 05739

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: EAID, EAGR, KE
 SUBJECT: SENATOR KASSEBAUM'S STATEMENT ON AFRICAN FOOD
 AID

1. THE NAIROBI DAILY NATION ON FEBRUARY 19, CARRIED A
 LEAD EDITORIAL TITLED "FOOD AIDS THAT AFRICA DOESN'T WANT"
 IN WHICH A RECENT STATEMENT BY SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM
 WAS MENTIONED. SENATOR KASSEBAUM IS QUOTED AS SAYING
 THAT SOMETIMES AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE PRESSURED INTO BUYING
 COMMODITIES THEY DON'T NEED SUCH AS RICE. FOLLOWING IS
 THE TEXT OF THE NEWS ARTICLE.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN COMPLAINING
 FOR MONTHS THAT THEY ARE PRESSURIZED INTO BUYING FOOD THEY
 DON'T NEED. THE COMPLAINTS HAVE LARGELY FALLEN ON DEAF
 EARS.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES COMPLAIN, TOO, THAT SOME OF THE FOOD
 AID EXTENDED TO THEM IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THEIR NEEDS.
 THESE COMPLAINTS, TOO, FALL ON DEAF EARS.

WHETHER THEY ARE SOLD FOOD AT CONCESSION PRICES OR
 WHETHER THEY ARE GIVEN FOOD AID, THE COUNTRIES COMPLAIN
 THEY ARE SOMETIMES TREATED RATHER SHABBILY.

AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE NOT ALONE. THE SAME COMPLAINTS
 ARE HEARD FROM ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA. THE COMPLAINTS
 ARE NOT DIRECTED AT WASHINGTON ONLY. THE EUROPEAN
 ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS CENSURED TO--AT TIMES. AND WITH
 GOOD REASON.

THE COMMUNITY REDUCES ITS MOUNTAINS OF AGRICULTURAL
 PRODUCE BY SELLING OR DONATING IT MAINLY TO THIRD WORLD
 COUNTRIES WITH FOOD DEFICIENCIES
 BUT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IF THESE
 COUNTRIES WERE GIVEN THE KIND OF FOOD THEY NEEDED. THEY
 ARE NOT. THE GENUINENESS OF THE COMPLAINTS LEVELLED
 AGAINST THE UNITED STATES WAS CONFIRMED BY SENATOR NANCY
 KASSEBAUM. THE US SENATOR SAID HER GOVERNMENT PRESSU-
 RIZES AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BUY MORE AMERICAN RICE INSTEAD

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OF WHEAT EVEN THOUGH THEIR PEOPLE PREFER WHEAT PRODUCTS.
THE RICE THUS BOUGHT IS LEFT TO ROT.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HEED HER CALL TO
ALLOW EACH GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE ITS PEOPLE'S NEEDS FOR
US FARM PRODUCTS. THIS WILL SAVE THESE GOVERNMENTS PLENTY
OF MONEY WHICH IS OTHERWISE LOST THROUGH BUYING PRODUCTS
WHICH THEIR PEOPLE DON'T WANT.

THE REGAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE EEC SHOULD ALSO
APPRECIATE THAT THEY DON'T DO NEEDY COUNTRIES MUCH GOOD
BY GIVING THEM FOOD ASSISTANCE WHICH THEY USE ONLY
BECAUSE FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD LEAD TO STARVATION.

POOR COUNTRIES' NEEDS SHOULD DETERMINE, AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE, THE KIND OF FOOD AID THEY GET. OTHERWISE, THE
AID FAILS TO SERVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS INTENDED.
ULTIMATELY, THAT SERVES NOBODY'S INTERESTS. END OF QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT SENATOR
KASSEBAUM'S STAFF DIRECTOR, PHIL CHRISTENSON (224-5481).
TO OBTAIN THE FULL TEXT OF THE SENATOR'S STATEMENT AND
CABLE IT TO NAIROBI. THOMAS
END OF MESSAGE

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